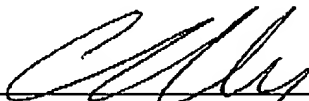


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applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN CLAIMS

Amend Claims 1, 11, and 20 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for controlling the shutdown of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

an intake manifold configured to conduct an intake charge of air to an intake port of the internal combustion engine;

5 a throttle configured to alter said intake charge of air to said intake port of the internal combustion engine; and

a computerized controller configured to control said throttle such that a substantial termination of said intake charge of air is provided during the shutdown of the internal combustion engine.

11. (Amended) A method of controlling the shutdown of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

receiving an ignition status indicative of a request to shutdown the internal combustion engine;

5 evaluating said ignition status to determine said request to shutdown the internal combustion engine; and

adjusting a throttle with a computer controller for a substantial termination of an intake charge of air through an intake manifold to an intake port of the internal combustion engine if said ignition status indicates said request to shutdown the internal combustion engine.

20. (Amended) The method of Claim [11] 12, wherein said predetermined period of time is less than about twenty seconds.